Annual Conference of the Department of Public Information
For Non-Governmental Organizations

A WORLD SAFE FOR CHILDREN: MEETING THE CHALLENGE IN THE 1990s

FINAL REPORT

12-14 September 1990
United Nations Headquarters
New York

Organized by the NGO/Institutional Relations Section
Department of Public Information
United Nations, New York

best copy available

FOREWORD

Some 1,100 representatives of Non-Governmental Organizations attended the 1990 Department of Public Information Annual Conference for Non-Governmental Organizations, "A World Safe for Children: Meeting the Challenge in the 1990s", making it the largest gathering of NGOs in the history of the United Nations. The participants represented 460 NGOs based in 60 Member States. Most of the participants came from North America but many came from Europe, Latin America, Asia and a few from Africa.

The importance and timeliness of the Conference's theme must account for its unprecedented success, attested to by many participants, both verbally and in returned Conference evaluation forms. But much of the credit is owed to the prominent, outstanding speakers and expert resource persons who made such valuable contributions and generated great interest and enthusiasm for follow-up activities.

With the help of a great team of rapporteurs and NGO volunteers the Conference Committee produced a "Summary Report to World Leaders" which was delivered within a few days to all Missions to the United Nations. Thus, a significant contribution to the work of the World Summit for Children was made by the NGO community.

This comprehensive report of the Conference attempts to provide the reader with as accurate an account of the various presentations as space permits without sacrificing substance. We realize that we may never succeed in doing justice to the distinguished speakers without producing the entire texts of their statements. But we sincerely believe that maximum benefit can be attained by this condensed report.

Farouk Mawlawi
Chief
NGO and Institutional Relations Section
Department of Public Information

READEX FICHE

A WORLD SAFE FOR CHILDREN: MEETING THE CHALLENGE IN THE 1990s
United Nations Headquarters, New York
12-14 September 1990

Wednesday, 12 September 1990

Open from 8:30 a.m. REGISTRATION, Public Lobby, General Assembly Building (46th Street and First Avenue)

9:45 a.m.-1:00 p.m. PLENARY SESSION

Sylvan Barnet Jr., Chairperson
Executive Committee of Non-Governmental Organizations
Associated with the Department of Public Information

Welcome: **Thérèse Paquet-Sévigny**
Under-Secretary-General
Department of Public Information
United Nations

MAKING THE WORLD SAFE FOR CHILDREN: TWO PERSPECTIVES

Chairperson: **Farouk Mawlawi**, Chief
Non-Governmental Organizations and Institutional Relations Section
Department of Public Information
United Nations

MAKING THE WORLD SAFE FOR CHILDREN: AN ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL PERSPECTIVE

Speaker: **Simone Veil**
Member of the European Parliament
Chairman of the WHO Global Advisory Committee on Environmental Health

MAKING THE WORLD SAFE FOR CHILDREN: A PHILOSOPHICAL AND POLITICAL PERSPECTIVE

Speaker: **Lisbet Palme**
Chairman
UNICEF Executive Board

Wednesday, 12 September 1990 (continued)

1:00 p.m. LUNCHEON RECESS

NGO Interchange -- Major Issues of Concern for NGOs
Informal discussion at the Church Centre for the United Nations (2nd floor, 777 United Nations Plaza, First Avenue and 44th Street). Participants provide their own lunch. Coffee and tea will be available.

2:45 - 5:45 p.m. PARALLEL SESSIONS

CHALLENGES OF THE CONVENTION ON THE RIGHTS OF THE CHILD

PARALLEL SESSION 1 CHILD SURVIVAL

Moderator:

Beverly Winekoff
The Population Council

Speakers:

James Garbarino
President
Erikson Institute for Advanced Study
in Child Development, Chicago, Illinois

William Clay
Nutrition Officer
Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) Rome

Tom G. Ortiz
Director of Operations
U.S. Task Force for Child Survival
Carter Presidential Center, Atlanta, GA

James Dodge
Board Member
SOS-Kinderdorf International
Vienna, Austria

Wednesday, 12 September 1990 (continued)

PARALLEL SESSION 2 — PROTECTION OF CHILDREN

Moderator:

Vernon Nichols
Unitarian Universalist Association

Speakers:

Hon. Libertine Amathila
Minister of Local Government and Housing
The Republic of Namibia

Neil Boothby
Professor of the Practice of Public Policy Studies
Duke University, Durham, North Carolina
Associate Consultant, Save the Children

James Weill
General Counsel
Children's Defense Fund, Washington, D.C.

PARALLEL SESSION 3 — DEVELOPMENT OF CHILDREN

Moderator:

Mary Purcell
International Federation of University Women

Speakers:

Hoda Badran
Secretary-General
National Council on Childhood and Motherhood
Cairo, Egypt

Urie Bronfenbrenner
Professor Emritus of Human Development and
Family Studies and Psychology, Cornell University
Ithaca, New York

Norris Haynes
Research Director
School Development Program
Yale University Child Study Center
New Haven, Connecticut

Thursday, 13 September 1990

10:00 a.m.-1:00 p.m. PLENARY SESSION

Chairperson: **Roshan Billimoria**, Former Chairperson
DPI/NGO Executive Committee

TOWARD A NEW ETHOS FOR CHILDREN

Speaker: **James P. Grant**
Executive Director
United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF)

MAKING THE WORLD SAFE FOR CHILDREN--A SYNERGETIC, UNITED NATIONS SYSTEM-WIDE APPROACH

Speakers: **Jan Martenson**
Under-Secretary-General
Centre for Human Rights, Geneva

Joseph van Arendonk
Deputy Executive Director
United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA), New York

Heribert Maier
Deputy Director-General
International Labour Organisation (ILO), Geneva

1:00 p.m. LUNCHEON RECESS

NGO Interchange -- NGO Programmes
Informal discussion at the Church Centre for the United Nations (2nd floor, 777 United Nations Plaza, First Avenue and 44th Street). Participants provide their own lunch. Coffee and tea will be available.

Thursday, 13 September 1990 (continued)

2:45 - 3:30 p.m. PLENARY SESSION

MAKING THE WORLD SAFE FOR CHILDREN: THE WORLD SUMMIT FOR CHILDREN

Chairperson:

Daniel Wegener
Baha'i International Community

L. Yves Fortier
Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary
Permanent Representative of Canada to the United Nations

3:45 - 6:00 p.m. **The WORLD SUMMIT FOR CHILDREN -- CHALLENGES AND OPPORTUNITIES IN THE 1990s**

WORKING SESSION 1 **SAFEGUARDING THE LIVES AND HEALTH OF CHILDREN**

Moderator:

Mildred Leet
Trickle Up Programme, New York

Resource Panelists:

Ingar Brüggemann
Director
WHO Liaison Office, New York

Rajanikant S. Arole
Director
Comprehensive Rural Health Project, Jamkhed, India
Visiting Professor Johns Hopkins University, Washington, D.C.

John Waterlow
Professor
London School of Hygiene and Tropical Sciences
United Kingdom

WORKING SESSION 2 **LEARNING FOR TOMORROW: EDUCATING THE WORLD'S CHILDREN**

Moderator:

Gordon Klopf
World Organization for Early
Childhood Education

Thursday, 13 September, 1990 (continued)

Resource Panelists:

Aklilu Habte
Special Advisor to the Executive Director, Education
United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF)

Elena Negnevitskaya
Research Institute of Pre-School Education Academy
of Pedagogical Sciences, Moscow, USSR

Tadashige Takamura
Professor of Law
Soka University, Tokyo

Cristofa Inoque Jamo
Head, Linguistics Department
University of Edwardo Mondlane, Mozambique

WORKING SESSION 3 — DEBT, DEVELOPMENT AND ENVIRONMENT

Moderator:

Hugh Locke
Baha'i International Community

Resource Panelists:

David Loos
Special Representative to the United Nations
World Bank

Rashmi Mayur
President
Global Futures Network, India

Ralph van der Hoeven
Senior Economic Advisor
United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF)

Rafael Pinkay
Financial Consultant
Arias Foundation, Costa Rica

WORKING SESSION 4 — CAUGHT IN THE CROSSFIRE: VICTIMS OF CONFLICT AND EXPLOITATION

Moderator:

Edward Marks
United States Committee for Refugees

Thursday, 13 September, 1990 (continued)

Resource Panelists:

Anders B. Johnsson
Senior Legal Advisor
United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR)
Geneva

Leah Levin
Director
JUSTICE, United Kingdom

Mona Macksoud
Professor of Clinical Psychology
Columbia University, New York

Chanrithy Ouk
Children of War

WORKING SESSION 5 — CHILDREN IN CRISIS: CRIME AND SUBSTANCE ABUSE

Moderator:

Amelia Dozzi
Chair, United Nations NGO Committee on
Narcotics and Substance Abuse

Resource Panelists:

Eduardo Vetere
Chief
Crime Prevention & Criminal Justice Branch
Centre for Social Development and Humanitarian Affairs
United Nations Office at Vienna

(Mr. Vetere's presentation read on his behalf by Dr. Yael Danieli, NGO Representative, World Federation for Mental Health)

Marilyn Rocky
Regional Director
Childhope Foundation, New York

Maria Vandor
Director
Women & Children Services, New York State

Bruce D. Johnson
Senior Research Analyst
Narcotics & Drug Research Inc., New York

6:00 - 8:00 p.m. — **EVENING RECEPTION**

Sponsored by the DPI/NGO Executive Committee. Advance reservations required. (United Nations Delegates Dining Room).

Friday, 14 September 1990

10:00 a.m.-1:00 p.m. MORNING PLENARY

Chairperson: **William Vendley**
World Conference on Religion and Peace

Report on Working Groups

Margery Cohen
League of Women Voters

Making the World Safe for Children: The Role of the Media

Moderator: **Ellen McGrath**
Division of Media Psychology
The American Psychological Association

Speakers: **Rolland Smith**
Anchor
Channel 9 News Program

Alain Modoux
Director of Information
United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO), Paris

Emily Ashton
Editor
Children's Express, New York

Anatoly G. Alexine
Author of Children's Books, USSR

V. Tarzie Vittachi
Journalist
Program Director, Pate Institute for Human Survival
Connecticut

1:00 p.m. **LUNCHEON RECESS**

NGO Interchange -- NGO Action Through the Media
Informal discussion at the Church Centre for the United Nations (2nd floor, 777 United Nations Plaza, First Avenue and 44th Street). Participants provide their own lunch. Coffee and tea will be available.

Friday, 14 September 1990 (continued)

2:45 - 4:30 p.m. PLENARY SESSION

THE CONVENTION ON THE RIGHTS OF THE CHILD: IMPERATIVES FOR GLOBAL ACTION

Chairperson:

Rosalind Harris
NGO Committee on UNICEF
International Social Service

Mahbub Ul Haq
Special Advisor to the Administrator
United Nations Development Programme (UNDP)

4:00 p.m. CLOSING ADDRESS:

H.E. JAVIER PEREZ DE CUELLAR
SECRETARY-GENERAL
UNITED NATIONS

(The Secretary-General's address was delivered on his behalf by the Under-Secretary-General of Public Information, Thérèse P. Sévigny)

CONFERENCE CLOSING:

Vadim P. Perfiliev
Director, Dissemination Division
Department of Public Information
United Nations

A WORLD SAFE FOR CHILDREN: MEETING THE CHALLENGE IN THE 1990s

Summary of the Conference Proceedings

12 September 1990 (Morning)

Sylvan Barnet Jr., Chair, NGO/DPI Executive Committee, opened the Annual DPI/NGO Conference by calling children the world's most critical shared concern. Mr. Barnet attributed the record attendance of 1,100 NGO representatives to the importance of the conference theme, the growing effectiveness of the United Nations and the increasing role of non-governmental organizations.

When the Member States of the United Nations were less than united, Mr. Barnet said, the United Nations agencies, along with the NGOs, were able to focus on the social, economic and humanitarian agendas. As these issues now are coming to the forefront, we can and should concentrate on the work of development -- on construction, not destruction. Mr. Barnet stressed that the advanced communication and information age has brought us closer together, and that the true world power today is "people power". The NGOs represent people power, he said, citing their networking across all borders and their commitment to keeping social and humanitarian issues alive. Mr. Barnet said we, the NGOs, should consider ourselves as the merchants of peace. He called on the conference participants to unite their strengths in making a world safe for children.

Thérèse Paquet-Sévigny, Under-Secretary-General for Public Information, United Nations, welcomed participants to the conference, saying that their presence demonstrates the great level of grass-roots support from all peoples of the world that serves as a foundation for United Nations progress.

Despite the new spirit of co-operation between East and West, Mrs. Sévigny said, great differences in health, education and prosperity still divide North and South. More than 70 per cent of the world's population of at least five billion live in developing countries, and many have an annual per capita income of less than $300. But material wealth does not guarantee the health of our children. As shown by the first-ever Human Development Report, issued in May 1990 by the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), a country with a high gross national product (GNP) may still have a low literacy rate and short life expectancy. Global problems such as chemical pollution and other environmental hazards also affect people in the North, she noted.

Mrs. Sévigny said that every week, illness and malnutrition kill a quarter of a million children. Every day, nearly 8,000 children die from measles, whooping cough or tetanus; more than 6,000 die of pneumonia and nearly 7,000 die from dehydration caused by diarrhea. By educating people, these 21,000 deaths each day may be prevented.

Results of the opinion polls the Department of Public Information conducted in 30 countries in 1989 showed that most people are aware of United Nations efforts to improve nutrition, trade and economic development, but many said the United Nations lacks the authority necessary to meet global challenges. For this reason, Mrs. Sévigny said, the United Nations must turn to NGOs and the media for help in providing solutions to global problems. We must all rally around the simple truth that ignorance is our common enemy. Together, we must also fight the inversion of moral values, in a world that has given up its welfare for weapons, traded its development for deficits, plundered its natural resources and cheated its own children.

It is a lack of caring that is threatening the lives of children today, not a lack of money or technology, according to Mrs. Sévigny. Remedies exist for the diseases which kill the most children, medicines which are not beyond the means of any society whose first priority is the well-being of its young. The United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child, adopted by the General Assembly in November 1989, provides a framework for international action to safeguard children, she said. The Convention obligates states to protect the economic, social, cultural, civil and political rights of our young. On 2 September 1990, the Convention entered into force, becoming binding international law for some 105 nations which have signed it. The Convention establishes a United Nations Committee on the Rights of the Child, composed of 10 experts who will monitor its implementation. Mrs. Sévigny said she hoped the knowledge the participants would acquire during the conference would help them in their efforts to motivate governments, businesses and individuals to ensure the safety and health of children.

MAKING THE WORLD SAFE FOR CHILDREN: TWO PERSPECTIVES

Chairperson: **Farouk Mawlawi**, Chief
NGO and Institutional Relations Section
Department of Public Information

MAKING THE WORLD SAFE FOR CHILDREN: AN ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL PERSPECTIVE

Simone Veil, Member of the European Parliament and Chairman, WHO Global Advisory Committee on Environmental Health, said it is inconceivable to gather at a conference on children at this time without thinking of children victimized by the disconcerting developments in the Persian Gulf. Children are the first victims of war. Of all human suffering, Mrs. Veil said she finds the misfortunes of children the most revolting -- because children are defenseless and dependent on adults to change the situation. The hardships and neglect affecting children today are shaping the adults of the future. What kind of family and society will these future adults be able to create, after having been brought up marginally to all structures and rules?

Mrs. Veil ascribed the remarkable advances made in the decade since the International Year of the Child to specialized agencies, and to collective and individual efforts, often at odds with the disastrous economic situation caused by the debt crisis. However, she said, perils for children in both

developing and industrialized countries have not ceased to grow. 40,000 children die each day, 14 million each year, of hunger, malnutrition and disease. Despite efforts and progress made by UNICEF and WHO, vaccination still does not reach all children.

Children starve to death in one part of the world, while in another, agricultural surplus is destroyed in order to keep prices high and to safeguard the farmer's standard of living. Other factors which Mrs. Veil said counteract agricultural self-sufficiency in developing countries are: desertification, droughts, land ownership patterns, the introduction of monoculture, absence of means of transportation and storage space for food and the rural exodus. Family structures are disrupted; the child is deprived of protection and education and is prone to join the growing ranks of urban street children. These children suffer some of the most terrible conditions, sometimes forced into prostitution, delinquency and drug addiction. Also in industrialized countries, life in big cities is hard on children. Even children in family settings may find themselves deprived of the love and sense of security necessary for their development.

Pointing to the origins of the Convention on the Rights of the Child, Mrs. Veil said that nearly a century ago, some countries began to change their legislation concerning children, providing new protection. These juridical concepts resulted from a new vision of the child's personality. The Convention is the result of action taken by the international community. The weakness of the Convention, she said, as in the case of most conventions, is that it carries neither binding constraints nor sanctions. Too often conventions remain purely symbolic. However, the power gained by the United Nations during the current crisis in the Gulf may evoke fundamental changes in the Organization's role both in Security Council matters and in the sphere of international co-operation.

In Mrs. Veil's view, it is not utopian to think that the United Nations may be inspired by the the Council of Europe, whose laws are binding on its member states. The European Court of Human Rights has repeatedly made decisions on violations of human rights and ordered the states to modify their legislation and pay damages. If a European Convention on the rights of the child per se were created, it could take into account a number of situations not covered by the European Convention on Human Rights. Illustrating how international laws may be put into effect, Mrs. Veil referred to the European Economic Community (EEC). In the ongoing integration of the 12 Member States of the EEC, the European Court of Justice in Luxembourg monitors the inclusion of new community laws into each national legislature. In this process, the EEC members systematically develop common laws to protect common interests such as the environment.

Mrs. Veil called for a new world order based on the desire of all people for co-operation, peace and better distribution of riches. Industrialized countries have to get out of the vicious circle and focus on the development of the poorest countries. Recent upheavals in the international community allow us to hope that the United Nations may assume the responsibilities it was given at its inception, Mrs. Veil said. Only when the dream of the creators of the United Nations comes true may our children sleep peacefully -- in the hope of a safe world tomorrow.

MAKING THE WORLD SAFE FOR CHILDREN: A PHILOSOPHICAL AND POLITICAL PERSPECTIVE

Lisbet Palme, Chairman, UNICEF Board, said that for a billion people, reality is marked by the devastating poverty that threatens children. The unacceptable conditions for children today are comparable with slavery and apartheid. For children in Europe, anxiety about environmental catastrophes is replacing anguish caused by East-West tensions. In Mrs. Palme's opinion, to make the world safe for children is also to lessen their anxiety by coping with environmental threats.

Mrs. Palme cited three basic points made by UNICEF which she feels should be acknowledged by anyone concerned with children's causes: (1) horrendous conditions cause the unnecessary death by preventable diseases of 40,000 children every day; (2) the knowledge of how to save these children is available and affordable; and (3) the unequal distribution of resources both within and among countries hinders an improvement of the state of the children. She said UNICEF runs programmes for children in 129 countries on funds equal to the child care budget of the city of Stockholm or four hours of the world's military expenditure.

According to Mrs. Palme, we have to change profoundly our values and priorities in order for a new paradigm for children to evolve. In an effort to create the necessary political will, UNICEF Executive Director James P. Grant proposed in 1988 that the time had come for a World Summit on Children. Sweden's Prime Minister Ingvar Carlsson was among the first to support the idea. Nearly 80 Heads of State have accepted the invitation from the Secretary-General of the United Nations. Mrs. Palme described the Summit as a peace-building initiative and said it could mark the beginning of a decisive historical era which will determine human development now and for future generations. She urged the Heads of State participating in the Summit to commit themselves to the principles of the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child.

Despite the easing of East-West tensions, war remains the main threat to children, Mrs. Palme said. She pointed to countries at war such as Afghanistan, Angola and Mozambique, which have the world's highest child mortality rates; every third child dies before the age of five. The destruction of hospitals, schools and homes, mining of fields and disintegration of families further victimize children. Mrs. Palme stressed that war also destroys the environment, as in Viet Nam and Namibia, where chemical destruction stripped trees of their leaves. The environment and children are closely linked together, because children are particularly vulnerable to pollution and poison. Furthermore, the children of today will inherit the effects of growing environmental problems.

Mrs. Palme illustrated how children are affected by political decisions: Nearly 15 million children under the age of five die each year in developing countries; 40 per cent of children under five suffer from malnutrition; every year, half a million women die as a result of pregnancy or childbirth; only half the children in poor countries have access to clean

drinking water and even more lack access to sanitary waste facilities; almost 100 million children do not attend school, and close to one billion adults (of whom two thirds are women) are illiterate; 100 million children are estimated to be child workers, not including children working as farmhands or in households.

Speaking on implications of the Convention of the Rights of the Child, Mrs. Palme said it is a moral obligation for the international community to bear in mind that the Convention stipulates that all state parties utilize their resources for children, and that the state parties may appeal to the international community for assistance when their own resources are exhausted.

Mrs. Palme concluded by quoting from a speech on child policy her late husband, Mr. Olof Palme, delivered in 1975: "We make long-term plans for our defense and discuss what monstrous things we need to build in the next 15 years. We have long-term energy policy and each city has a long-term plan, where it gives an account of all the services and the nice jobs it is going to create. All this is fine and necessary and correct. The only thing is that the single practical link to the future that we really have are the children. It is in them that we see the future take shape".

* * * * * * *

12 September 1990 (Afternoon)

Parallel session 1

CHALLENGES OF THE CONVENTION ON THE RIGHTS OF THE CHILD -- CHILD SURVIVAL

This session was moderated by **Beverly Winikoff**, The Population Council. The panelists were **James Garbarino**, President, Erikson Institute for Advanced Study in Child Development, Chicago; **William Clay**, Nutrition Officer, Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, Rome; **Tom G. Ortiz**, Director of Operations, U.S. Task Force on Child Survival, Carter Presidential Center, Atlanta; and, **James Dodge**, Board Member, SOS-Kinderdorf International, Vienna.

Mr. Garbarino stressed the importance of the community and its impact on child survival and development. Children growing up in an atmosphere of urban violence or war are especially at risk with regard to their ability to develop and become contributing members of society. Their future depends on the capacity of parents to maintain their own morale and sustain the relationship with their children. He also noted that the Convention on the Rights of the Child is an effort not only to protect life but also to preserve

its integrity. It conveys the economic claim of the child on community resources for support and protection from economic forces; the political claim to the protection of the cultural space which is childhood; and a personal claim on society to the protection of the child's sexuality, sending the message to adults that children are off limits.

Mr. Clay focused on the fact that nutrition is fundamental to child survival, and that the Convention on the Rights of the Child can be the mechanism by which governments and communities can develop programmes to effectively promote and provide good nutrition while combatting malnutrition and its crippling effects. He noted that: (a) food must be available in proper variety; (b) individuals and households must have access to that food; and (c) food must be distributed equitably. He said that malnutrition can be overcome once we begin to identify the extent and severity in a given setting, then develop a process to strengthen nutrition policies. Mr. Clay informed the participants that FAO, together with WHO, will convene an international conference on nutrition in 1992 and invited NGOs to assist in the preparations and follow-up activities.

Mr. Ortiz presented the audience with the grave statistics of the preventable diseases which continue to take the lives of our children around the world. In some countries, as many as 20 per cent die before their fifth birthday. In contrast, he acknowledged the outstanding progress being made almost everywhere. As many as 70 per cent of the world's children today have access to immunization through the efforts of the Expanded Programme on Immunization (EPI). He noted that the continuing decline of infant mortality rates, while offering hope, reflected the need for sustained, even increased efforts if the goal of a global infant mortality rate of 50 per thousand is to be reached by the year 2000. Other goals for the decade include the eradication of polio, a 90 per cent reduction in cases of measles, the prevention of 70 per cent of deaths caused by diarrhea, and the prevention of 50 per cent of cases involving respiratory illness.

Mr. Dodge gave a report on efforts by the SOS Children's Village organization to help children world-wide. Recalling that child survival and development require that a child's basic needs be secured, SOS Kinderdorf/Children's Village provides orphaned children with an atmosphere of family support, good nutrition, education, medical attention, community and love -- all the comforts of home.

The Children's Villages operate in over 100 countries, with 50,000 children in direct and 100,000 in indirect care. Addressing the question why SOS Children's Villages have only "mothers" to care for the children, Mr. Dodge said 30 years of experience have shown that the concept works, noting that single women have proven to be a long-lasting source of love and care for the children they raise.

Parallel Session 2

CHALLENGES OF THE CONVENTION ON THE RIGHTS OF THE CHILD -- PROTECTION OF CHILDREN

This session was moderated by **Vernon Nichols**, Unitarian Universalist Association. The panelists were **Hon. Libertine Amathila**, Minister of Local Government and Housing, the Republic of Namibia; **Neil Boothby**, Professor of the Practice of Public Policy Studies, Duke University, North Carolina, and Associate Consultant, Save the Children; and **James Weill**, General Counsel, Children's Defense Fund, Washington, D.C.

Mrs. Amathila addressed problems of protection of children in Namibia, where approximately 50-60 per cent of households are headed by single women. Women's poverty and illiteracy, combined with the lack of sufficient health care and day-care services are a threat to their children. Legislating a system of paid maternity leave would make it possible for women to breast-feed longer and thus provide better care for babies and reduce the infant mortality rate. She said better education and improved economic opportunity for women will have the greatest influence on the welfare of children. Without such a focus on women, children's rights cannot be realized. Of Namibia's approximately 1.7 million inhabitants, 75 to 80 per cent live in rural areas and depend on subsistence farming. On the average, there are seven people to a house in Namibia. The unemployment rate is 40 per cent, according to Mrs. Amathila. Urgent action is needed to address the problem of child abuse and to improve basic health care (the under five mortality rate is 176 per 1000). The immunization rate for measles is an alarming 14 per cent.

Mr. Boothby spoke on protection of children in situations of armed conflict. In the war zones of Mozambique, 77 per cent of children have witnessed killings, and 51 per cent have been physically abused or tortured in the civil war being fought by the guerilla forces of RENAMO. 64 per cent have been abducted from their families and taken to base camps to serve as slaves or to be trained for combat. Children who are kidnapped by guerilla units are forced to witness and participate in torture and murder. A child's first active murder is considered a rite of passage into the combat group. Mr. Boothby said that along with efforts to shield children from hostilities, governments must find ways to help the kidnapped children that have returned. The children must be recognized as victims and given amnesty. Tracing programmes are needed to locate the children's families, as is support for their reintegration in society, with emphasis on their psychological rehabilitation.

Mr. Weill focused on problems of children in the United States, saying that it is behind all its economic peers in building public support systems for families and children. One fifth of American children (12 million) live below the poverty line, and 10,000 children die every year from the effects of that poverty. The United States ranks 19th in the world for infant mortality. Millions of children suffer from domestic violence, violent crime and exploitation. He spoke of an "underdeveloped world within this developed nation" in which millions of children are trapped. The Children's Defense Fund (CDF) addresses these problems and provides a voice for the children of the United States. Mr. Weill said CDF is trying to convince President Bush to sign the Convention on the Rights of the Child.

Parallel session 3

CHALLENGES OF THE CONVENTION ON THE RIGHTS OF THE CHILD -- CHILD DEVELOPMENT

This session was moderated by **Mary Purcell**, International Federation of University Women. The panelists were **Hoda Badran**, Secretary-General, National Council on Childhood and Motherhood, Egypt; **Urie Bronfenbrenner**, Professor Emeritus of Human Development and Family Studies and Psychology, Cornell University, New York; and, **Norris Haynes**, Research Director, School Development Program, Yale University Child Study Center, Connecticut.

Mrs. Badran said development of children should be part of the overall development plan of a country. Recently, specialists and international organizations have become aware of the need for an intensified, human-centred approach to development. According to Mrs. Badran, healthy development of children has to start with a safe pregnancy. Safe motherhood also means that a woman should be able to decide when she can deliver a baby, and how many babies she can have. Child development policies should take into consideration the status of women in the society. Few countries have an overall policy for child development, but rather scattered plans among different sectors. Addressing the pressing need for early childhood development in the poorest countries, she said the lack of day-care and pre-schooling makes parental education the most important vehicle to reach the youngest children. The NGOs can put pressure on decision-makers by providing models of services which need to be implemented on a broader scale.

Mr. Bronfenbrenner said he would translate findings of science into five propositions that may be applied across all cultures and classes:

(a) In order to develop intellectually, emotionally, socially and morally, a child requires one or more persons with whom he or she develops a strong, mutual, "irrational" attachment and who is committed to that child's well-being and development. In short, Mr. Bronfenbrenner said, "somebody has got to be crazy about that kid";

(b) The development of a child depends on the involvement of another adult, "a third party", who encourages and expresses affection for the person caring for the child;

(c) The relationships and activities outlined in proposition (a) and (b) foster the child's development only if they occur regularly over a long period of time, without frequent interruption and environmental stress;

(d) Effective child rearing requires communication and mutual trust between parents and the child care institution, the school and the parents' work place;

(e) Also required are public policies that provide stability, resources, belief systems and actions in support of child rearing activities.

In Mr. Bronfenbrenner's view, the first step of action should be to educate the leaders (who are primarily men) of public and private organizations from the international to the local level about what is threatening the development of children world-wide. What may enable us to make progress is that these threats are no longer just the problems of the poor, but also of the well-to-be. The leaders need to be educated not by talking to each other, as in the World Summit for Children, but through meetings with people, like NGOs, who know the problems and how they may be solved. Mass media need to be engaged in order to reach all levels of the world's leadership.

Mr. Haynes said the quality of children's lives increases in direct proportion to the amount of resources invested in programmes benefitting them. All children have certain universal needs in three basic interconnected developmental domains: physical, psychological and cognitive. Speaking on the physical need, he quoted Sir Winston Churchill: "There is no finer investment for any community than putting milk into babies". Addressing the psychological sphere, he said all children need caring and loving relationships with adults in order to develop healthy personalities. One's ability to speak, read, write and make intelligent decisions is affected by the adequate satisfaction of cognitive needs.

Explaining the influence of sound psychological development on physical development, Mr. Haynes said it is important that this issue be well understood. Many children who are depressed, unhappy or feel rejected and alone, suffer tremendous physical pain that in many cases is incapacitating. Their escape may be drugs or suicide. Society pays a high social cost for these tragedies. The only source of relief for many of these children are loving adults, enhanced self-esteem and hope.

13 September 1990 (Morning)

Chairperson: Roshan Billimoria, Former Chairperson of the DPI/NGO Executive Committee

TOWARD A NEW ETHOS FOR CHILDREN

James P. Grant, Executive Director, United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF), said that at the end of September 1990 the largest gathering of world leaders ever would meet to discuss the subject of children. The daily death toll of children around the world illustrates a continuing crisis. Some 7,000 children die daily of diseases that could have been prevented with one dollar's worth of vaccines; another 7,000 die because their mothers do not know how to prepare a simple, sugar-and-salt anti-diarrhea treatment; another 7,000 die of respiratory infections that could have been remedied with one dollar's worth of antibiotics, and 7,000 go blind for want of 10 cents worth of vitamin A. "That's why we are gathered here", he said. "Why has there not been more moral outrage at this obscene daily harvest?"

Mr. Grant said the world treats this crisis as an inevitable by-product of poverty, of the general condition of the world. But the fact is, two thirds of the 40,000 children dying every day could have been saved by simple means well within the reach of technology. A new ethos is emerging that says that children should have a "first call" on the resources of society, according to Mr. Grant. Mothers and children -- of the poor -- have historically been last in line, he said. At the beginning of the decade only 10 to 15 per cent of the world's children were immunized. Today, 70 per cent are reached. The UNICEF goal for December 1990 is to immunize 80 per cent of all children. In the political area, the upcoming ratification of the Convention on the Rights of the Child would be the most broadly signed political convention in history.

Were the goals of the World Summit for Children to be realized, the lives of some 50 million children and the lives of 1.5 million mothers might be saved. A dramatic impact on world population growth would also occur. As countries move towards those health, education and nutrition goals, population growth would level out. "We are on the threshold of a new millenium, he said. What a gift it would be from this century to the next, were we able to give children that 'first call' on our resources."

MAKING THE WORLD SAFE FOR CHILDREN -- A SYNERGETIC, UNITED NATIONS SYSTEM-WIDE APPROACH

Jan Martenson, Director-General, United Nations Office at Geneva, and Under-Secretary-General for Human Rights, said just over 10 days ago one of the most important human rights instruments ever adopted by the world community became international law with the entry into force of the Convention on the Rights of the Child. In his view, the Convention is unique because it protects the broadest scope of fundamental human rights ever brought together within one treaty and seeks to ensure the basic dignity, survival and development of over half the population of the globe.

Mr. Martenson said the drafting, adoption and entry into force of the Convention could not have been achieved without the support of NGOs. They have helped by giving the Convention high, innovative and forward-looking standards. This crucial partnership among the United Nations, governments, specialized agencies, UNICEF and NGOs must be continued and broadened if the words of the Convention are to become reality for children in every part of the world.

Today, Mr. Martenson said, a wide range of activities aim at protecting the rights of the child, including those of the Human Rights Committee, which is charged with monitoring the implementation of the Covenant on Civil and Political Rights. Under the aegis of the Sub-Commission on Prevention of Discrimination and Protection of Minorities, the Working Group on Contemporary Forms of Slavery provides evidence every year on the sale of children, exploitation of child labour, child prostitution, child pornography, children in armed conflict, child debt bondage, traditional practices affecting the health of girls and adoption for commercial purposes. Often, those reports are sent to governments for action, Mr. Martenson said. The Working Group on Disappearances and the Special Rapporteurs on Torture and Summary Executions regularly send urgent cables to governments regarding such cases.

Outlining the set of rights covered in the Convention on the Rights of the Child, Mr. Martenson said they can be grouped under three headings: (1) Those setting forth fundamental rights and freedoms, such as the right of a child to life, to equality, to a name and a nationality, as well as freedom of conscience, expression and religion; (2) those providing certain protections from dangers to which children are particularly susceptible, such as physical or mental abuse, abduction or trafficking, and economic or sexual exploitation, and; (3) those that seek to promote a child's proper development through access to such basic necessities as education, information, leisure, play and cultural activities.

The Committee on the Rights of the Child (composed of 10 experts) set up under the Convention will be the focal point to translate the rights of the child into national law and practice, according to Mr. Martenson. He said the first strategy should be to establish the institutional and organizational structure on the national and international levels which would permit attention to be continuously focused on the implementation of the rights of the child. Nationally, resources should be made available to encourage the establishment of national commissions on the child to serve as independent focal points for reviewing the situation of the child. Internationally, the Committee on the Rights of the Child should be supported and given the resources for its efficient operation. Mr. Martenson said a prime objective should be to provide the necessary information and to assist in raising public awareness of issues relating to the rights of the child.

Joseph van Arendonk, Deputy Executive Director, Programme, United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA), called attention to the United Nations estimate that 1.5 billion children will be born before the end of the decade, of whom 100 million will die in infancy. The principal causes of those deaths are diarrhea, respiratory infections, vaccine-preventable diseases and protein-calorie malnutrition. Most of those deaths could be avoided through comprehensive national maternal and child care programmes and family planning.

Mr. van Arendonk said the total number of births in the world have increased, as has the incidence of childhood death. The challenge for the 1990s is to roll back world rates of infant mortality, placing family planning in a central role. A woman who has more than six births faces a 40 per cent higher risk of infant mortality than women with only two or three children. Infant and child mortality can be greatly reduced through family planning, reduction of high-risk births by very young or older women, increasing intervals between births, and lowering the total number of births.

Some 500,000 women die every year in pregnancy, and from 100,000 to 200,000 die of improperly performed abortions. In the developing world, women run a 50 to 100 per cent higher risk of maternal mortality than in the industrialized world. Proper family planning, if implemented world-wide, could reduce maternal mortality by an estimated 25 to 33 per cent, Mr. van Arendonk said. During the 1990s, the world population will increase by some 90 to 100 million people per year; over 90 per cent of those births would be in the developing world. Enhancing the overall education of women dramatically reduces the risk of maternal mortality, lowers birth rates and improves the quality of life of families.

The UNFPA, he stated, aims to address those issues by capitalizing on individual communities' ability to identify their own needs and by assisting them in improving health education, food supply and nutrition, water and sanitation, immunization, control of endemic diseases, provision of essential drugs and general family planning. UNFPA regards access to family planning education and services a basic human right. Mr. van Arendonk said a United Nations system-wide synergistic approach would have the greatest impact on child survival and welfare. The challenge before the World Summit on Children is not just child survival, but a future in which children can develop their full human potential.

Heribert Maier, Deputy Director-General, International Labour Organisation (ILO), said the Organisation, in collaboration with NGOs, has done much work in the area of child labour. Despite achievements in many parts of the world, child labour is still a serious problem. One fourth of all school-age children (ages 6-11) in low-income countries are working and not in school. For children who ought to be in secondary school (ages 12 to 15), almost 60 per cent are working. The life of child workers is often difficult, as many are engaged in activities that are dangerous to their health. The protection of children against exploitation is therefore one of the areas covered by early labour laws.

Mr. Maier said the work of ILO on the international protection of children has taken various forms, including the establishment of international labour conventions. Minimum age conventions have been adopted for industrial, agricultural and non-industrial work. Once ratified, conventions put formal obligation on States. The 1973 minimum age convention was the most recent and mandated that children should not be engaged in work that would affect their education or health.

The Convention on the Rights of the Child will further protect children, Mr. Maier said. Despite the existence of international conventions, children in many countries often work for various reasons, often because there are no schools or because parents have no confidence in the value of education.

Health and education programmes often are not important priorities for governments, and thus are eliminated by structural adjustment programmes. He said NGOs have played a decisive role in the protection of child workers by pressing governments to implement child protection laws. They also take important issues to the courts and promote grassroots organizations. Political support and leadership are needed, however, if child workers are to be protected from abuse and exploitation. Mr. Maier said progress can be made if there is sufficient political will, but that task should not be left to governments alone. The ILO is prepared to work with NGOs and to reinforce its campaign for the abolition of child labour.

* * * * * * *

13 September 1990 (Afternoon)

MAKING THE WORLD SAFE FOR CHILDREN: THE WORLD SUMMIT FOR CHILDREN

Chairperson: **Daniel Wegener**
Baha'i International Community

L. Yves Fortier, Permanent Representative of Canada to the United Nations, noted that we are drawn together by our responsibilities for our children and in considering how the World Summmit on Children ought to serve them. The statistics are brutal -- millions of children die from preventable causes and live without adequate food, clothing, shelter, nurture and love. No more damning comment could be found on our global priorities in the most affluent age in history, Ambassador Fortier said.

The Summit will focus on improving human prospects by investing in children, whose health and education will gain the future. The aim of the Summit will be to insist that "children must no longer be the victims of the follies of their elders." As co-chair of the Summit, Canada has three priorities, according to Ambassador Fortier: (1) to promote a better awareness and understanding of the problems that confront children and their families throughout the world; (2) to encourage nations which have not yet signed and ratified the Convention on the Rights of the Child to do so; and (3) to remember and respect the Summit declaration and take action to implement its plan of action.

Speaking on the preparations for the Summit, Ambassador Fortier paid tribute to Mr. Grant, Executive Director of UNICEF, saying that without his vision and determination the Summit would not be a reality. Ambassador Fortier said we are all indebted to NGOs for their commitment and competence and for their ability to animate the public agenda and deliver the goods. But the Summit itself is not enough, he said. It can provide, through the declaration and the plan of action, impulse, inspiration and goals. But, he

stressed, putting those documents into effect will require the partnership of governments, international agencies, voluntary organizations, families and individuals. NGOs have a paramount role in enriching this network of capacity. They represent the organizations closest to the communities and the children and have the relevant experience and the necessary enthusiasm. It is through their work and contribution that millions of lives have been saved in past years -- and will be saved in the future.

Ambassador Fortier said the experience of the 1980s has shown that it is only through the mobilization of all sectors of society that significant progress can be achieved. In Canada, NGOs helped the government shape its participation at the Summit. The Canadian Coalition for the Rights of Children represents over 30 organizations concerned about the condition of children in Canada and around the world. The Coalition has organized workshops across the country so that views and concerns of children and youth might be conveyed to Prime Minister Mulroney before his participation in the Summit. Ambassador Fortier urged NGOs to become partners of government and the articulate voice of children in making the most of the Summit. The true success of the Summit will not be measured at the end of the day on 30 September 1990, in Mr. Fortier's opinion. It will be measured many years down the road, in the number of deaths prevented and the number of lives improved.

WORKING SESSIONS

Working Session I

SAFEGUARDING THE LIVES AND HEALTH OF CHILDREN

This session was moderated by **Mildred R. Leet** from the Trickle Up Program. The resource panelists were **Ingar Brüggemann**, Director, World Health Organization (WHO) Liaison Office, New York; **Rajanikant S. Arole**, Director, Comprehensive Rural Health Project, Jamkhed, India, and Visiting Professor, Johns Hopkins University, Washington, D.C.; and **John Waterlow**, Professor, London School of Hygiene and Tropical Sciences, United Kingdom.

Ms. Brüggemann said the fate of children after the Second World War led to the creation of organizations like UNICEF and WHO. The Constitution of WHO obligates all of us to safeguard children's lives and health. She argued that statistics do not really "speak" -- they do not have clout. WHO and other members of the United Nations family are trying to translate statistics into messages, to set objectives and take action. With respect to the impact of the World Summit for Children, she said that it was crucial that the participating Heads of State return home intending to increase the health budget. Mother and child care are closely linked together and must be given priority in health programmes. Ms. Brüggemann stressed the importance of a comprehensive approach when dealing with health issues.

Mr. Arole, speaking on behalf of children in developing countries, pointed to the responsibility of NGOs to fill the gap between what governments say they will do and what they actually do. He emphasized the need for community participation in health. Saying that the root cause of health care problems is poverty, he called for (1) a demystification of the profit-oriented health industry, that is, that information on health be shared with the people; (2) interdisciplinary research incorporating anthropology, sociology, economics, the World Bank, etc., instead of purely focussing on medical problems; (3) monitoring programmes ensuring that money or material is channelled directly to child health purposes (and not to arms); (4) participation of the people in identifying problems; (5) a change in concentration of medical activities from large medical centres to smaller communities; and (6) acknowledgement of the tremendous non-medical influence on the child.

Mr. Waterlow stressed the importance of integration of preventive and curative medicine. In his view, deaths from malnutrition can be greatly reduced if proper principles are applied and pediatricians are trained accordingly. He questioned the assumption that child survival be a priority of developing countries, saying that it may be just the opinion of the West. The loss of a mother or a father entails much more devastating consequences to a family than the loss of a child, Mr. Waterlow said. In order to learn if child survival is really what people want, it is imperative to investigate the issue. Because growth charts are not standardized, what may be classified as "stunted" in countries of South East Asia may not be so. He said it is important that NGOs support research so that it is not perceived as a luxury, but as an essential component in understanding where problems occur and what the priorities should be.

Working Session 2

LEARNING FOR TOMORROW: EDUCATING THE WORLD'S CHILDREN

This session was moderated by **Gordon Klopf** of the World Organization for Early Childhood Education. The resource panelists were **Aklilu Habte**, Special Advisor on Education to the Executive Director, UNICEF; **Elena Negnevitskaya**, Research Institute of Pre-School Education, Academy of Pedagogical Sciences, Moscow; **Tadashige Takamura**, Professor of Law, Soka University, Tokyo; and **Cristofa Inoque Jamo**, Head of the Linguistics Department, University of Edwardo Mondlane, Mozambique.

Mr. Habte pointed out that one hundred million school-age children do not receive any education and one billion adults are illiterate. Two thirds of children not in school and of illiterate adults are female. The contribution of education to development is of utmost importance, because education is a cornerstone of economic and social development. With regard to the Jomtien Declaration adopted at the World Conference on Education for All held at Jomtien, Thailand, 5-9 March 1990, he said (1) it is necessary to assist countries to develop national strategies involving people in education; (2) concern should be given to the quality of what is taught in the classroom; (3) priority should be given to educating more girls and

women; and (4) mass media should be used to make information available to people. Just as the World Conference on Education for All created a new global vision, each nation must now create its own national vision, not in some government office, but in the communities, in local organizations, with the parents, the teachers and the children.

Ms. Negnevitskaya spoke of early childhood education, saying a human being learns more during the first years than during his or her whole life. By the age of five, perhaps 90 per cent of one's personality is formed. Speaking in her capacity as a linguist having worked with child speech development for many years, she said it is very often impossible to stimulate and improve the language of a child who has not reached a certain level before the age of five. In the Soviet Union, the old discipline-oriented pre-school education system is being substituted by a personality-oriented model. Education on the world outside the Soviet Union is being introduced. It is hoped that the new curriculum will broaden the minds of both children and teachers, Ms. Negnevitskaya said. Addressing the theme of children and communication, she referred to the many multi-lingual and multi-cultural societies, in which, for various reasons, there are hundreds of thousands of "semi-lingual" children. The right of a child to learn at least one language well must be respected.

Mr. Takamura discussed problems of the Japanese educational system and outlined possible solutions. He said a change in the sense of values, the social system and the weakening of the administration's influence could have a positive influence on the educational system. Lack of internationalism should be tackled by intensified activities introducing foreign cultures to Japanese children and exchange of international education. He noted that Soka Gakkai International launches exhibitions for this purpose. Mr. Takamura suggested a world campaign for education to be launched by a World Educators' Conference. He proposed that a first United Nations General Assembly Special Session on Education be held, with the following agenda:
(1) the creation of an Education Development Fund for Third World countries;
(2) the creation of a United Nations Co-operation League to provide voluntary assistance; and (3) the promotion of education for world citizenship.

Mr. Jamo addressed difficulties children in developing countries face regarding their education. Learning is hard when you are sick, hungry, tired, frightened or sad. Teaching is difficult when you have no training and students have no pencils, papers or textbooks. He called on the Heads of State meeting at the World Summit for Children to come up with "solid workable programmes" that would ameliorate those difficult situations and create ways to engage everyone in providing all children with the minimum requirements for their health, food, clothing, housing and education. Mr. Jamo said we need to overhaul and update the concept of formal education and acknowledge that it does not take place only within four walls. He referred to the Faure Commission Report which emphasized that formal education systems everywhere were growing obsolete in relation to rapidly growing societies. If we fail to remove the obstacles to our children's education, all the problems the world will face will be of our own making.

Working Session 3

DEBT, DEVELOPMENT AND ENVIRONMENT

This session was moderated by **Hugh Locke**, Baha'i International Community. The resource panelists were **David Loos**, Special Representative to the United Nations, World Bank; **Rashmi Mayur**, President, Global Futures Network, India; **Rolph van der Hoeven**, Senior Economic Advisor, UNICEF; and **Rafael Pinkay**, Financial Consultant, Arias Foundation, Costa Rica.

Mr. Loos quoted Mr. Barber Conable, President of the World Bank: "Poverty on today's scale prevents a billion people from having even minimally acceptable standards of living". Mr. Loos said rapid population growth emerges as one of the basic developmental problems. A strategy to promote the welfare of children needs to ensure that women are fully integrated. Women make up a disproportionate number of the poor. If they continue to be deprived of opportunities to realize their potential, there will be serious social and economic consequences. With regard to the issue of debt, he said the international community has to do more to meet financing needs, but the debtor countries must continue to assume primary responsibility for their own debt by sustaining economic reforms and the adjustment process. According to Mr. Loos, NGOs based in industrialized countries provided $5.5 billion in development aid in 1988, an amount which exceeded the assistance from the International Development Association (IDA).

Mr. Mayur said we are living in an age of contradiction; the main food problem in Western Europe being the surplus mountains of butter and rivers of milk, while in other parts of the world, one billion people starve. Since 1981 the debt of developing countries has grown from $650 billion to $1.3 trillion. Ghana, for example, spends 50 per cent of its foreign exchange earnings to pay interest and service charges on its loans. Over the past five years, the number of malnourished children in Ghana has increased by 25 per cent because land that was formerly used to grow food now is devoted to export-oriented crops. Mr. Mayur urged families in rich countries to adopt all the world's 100 million street children. During 1989, 500,000 children went blind due to vitamin A deficiency. 60 per cent of children in developing countries have no access to drinkable water. He said children can be liberated from their plight only through the liberation of women.

Mr. Pinkay pointed out that in Costa Rica there are more teachers than police; the literacy rate is among the highest in the world, and there are no political prisoners or people dying in the streets. He attributed these positive figures to the fact that Costa Rica disbanded its army 40 years ago, and said he hoped neighbour countries would follow in an effort to create a region of peace and prosperity. Mr. Pinkay pleaded that Central America be relieved of its external debt and receive help, not arms. Just as we should make a big effort for the rights of our children, we should fight for the rights of Mother Nature. The lungs of the world are in peril and pollution control must be mandatory; alternative sources of energy must substitute for fossil fuels.

Mr. van der Hoeven said that UNICEF receives strong messages from its field staff on the need for debt relief. Since the early 1980s, the number of street children and malnourished children has increased drastically. Poor countries spend an average of five per cent of GNP on debts, 2.5 per cent on education and 1.1 per cent on health. With regard to economic adjustments, UNICEF advocates "adjustment with a human face", contending that such measures should take women and children into account. The informal sector must not be left out when implementing adjustment programmes. Nutrition intervention and close monitoring of social changes are important aspects of "adjustment with a human face". According to Mr. van der Hoeven, the challenge today is to convert the positive change in attitudes toward debt policies into actual funds and debt relief.

Working Session 4

CAUGHT IN THE CROSSFIRE: VICTIMS OF CONFLICT AND EXPLOITATION

This session was moderated by **Edward Marks**, United States Committee for Refugees. The resource panelists were **Anders B. Johnsson**, Senior Legal Advisor, UNHCR; **Leah Levin**, Director, JUSTICE, United Kingdom; **Mona Macksoud**, Professor of Clinical Psychology, Columbia University, New York; and **Chanrity Ouk**, Children of War.

Mr. Johnsson called attention to the situation of refugee children, saying that more than half of the 30 to 40 million refugees and displaced persons in the world are children. These children are especially vulnerable to violence, harassment, physical and sexual abuse and torture. A marked increase has occurred in the forced recruitment of refugee children into belligerent groups. Other hardships of refugee children include separation from family members, trauma and cultural alienation.

Mr. Johnsson said the legal frameworks for dealing with these problems are the 1951 United Nations Convention on the Status of Refugees, the Geneva Conventions, and the Convention on the Rights of the Child. In 1986, UNHCR initiated an in-depth study on the situation of refugee children. The following year, based on a UNHCR report, the General Assembly adopted a resolution on policy guidelines on a broad range of issues concerning refugee children.

Ms. Levin spoke on child labour, noting that even rural children working with their families are exploited -- because of the diabolical state of poverty in which many families live. Millions of children work under conditions that are detrimental to their physical, mental and moral development. Bonded child labourers work to pay off debts of their impoverished parents. In India, where bonded labour is illegal, immense campaigns are launched in an attempt to liberate the millions of bonded child workers. Ms. Levin said there is great concern in the international community regarding international adoption because of the possibilities for trafficking

and sale of children. She called for a war against poverty, deprivation and discrimination. The Convention on the Rights of the Child provides international standards to fight exploitation of children; what is urgently needed is a strategy for action.

Ms. Macksoud outlined the psychological impact of traumatic experiences faced by children in war-torn countries (currently more than 20). A 1988 profile of Lebanon showed that 96 per cent of children aged 3-16 residing in Greater Beirut had been exposed to at least one traumatic war event. A survey of children directly involved in the civil war in Mozambique revealed that 51 per cent had been physically abused or tortured. Of those children abducted from their families, 28 per cent had been trained for combat and forced to kill. Studies of children in war zones show that they lose their sense of safety, acquire a high tolerance for violence, are haunted by terrifying memories, are mistrusting and cautious of others and have a pessimistic view of the future. In Ms. Macksoud's view, communities can buffer the impact of destabilization and violence by involving youth in constructive social activities such as peace camps and demonstrations.

Mr. Ouk, a Cambodian refugee, said he represents child victims of war and violence. He was five years old when, in 1975, he and his family were separated. Chanrity lived in a refugee camp for a year before he was told that his mother had died giving birth and that the baby had been killed. He received no education in the refugee camp. After four years he was reunited with his father, only to discover that they were on the regime's death list. Chanrity wanted to commit suicide. He became very sick from eating poisonous plants, and his father tried in vain to have them released from the camp. His father managed to escape from the camp first, and Chanrity and his pregnant step-mother escaped later by hiding for 24 hours in a garbage site, constantly fearing for their lives. Again, Chanrity was separated from his family. After six years living in the streets and with people willing to lodge him, he escaped to Thailand, believing his family had been killed. He had spent two years in a refugee camp when, in 1987, his father was traced in the United States. They were reunited the following year in New York. Living here, Chanrity is now a high school senior. Through Children of War, Chanrity and young people with similar experiences try to enhance public awareness about the fate of children caught in conflict.

Working session 5

CHILDREN IN CRISIS: CRIME AND SUBSTANCE ABUSE

This session was moderated by **Amelia Dozzi**, UN NGO Committee on Narcotics and Substance Abuse. The resource panelists were **Yael Danieli**, World Federation for Mental Health, who presented the statement of **Eduardo Vetere**, Chief, Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice Branch, United Nations Office at Vienna; **Marilyn Rocky**, Regional Director, Childhope Foundation, New York; **Maria Vandor**, Director, Woman and Children Services, New York State; and **Bruce D. Johnson**, Senior Research Analyst, Narcotics & Drug Research Inc., New York.

Ms. Danieli, speaking on behalf of Mr. Vetere, said minors everywhere are the victims of adult greed, exploitation and selfishness. According to United Nations crime surveys, the number of recorded crimes grew by 11 per cent from 1975-1980 and by 23 per cent from 1980-1985. Drug-related offences increased by 60 per cent. The link between crime and substance abuse is very close, and young persons, from different cultural backgrounds and socio-economic classes, are the main victims. The Eighth United Nations Congress on Prevention of Crime and the Treatment of Offenders, held at Havana, Cuba, from 27 August to 7 September 1990, recommended that the General Assembly adopt five draft resolutions on: (1) United Nations Guidelines for the Prevention of Juvenile Delinquency (The Riyadh Guidelines); (2) United Nations Rules for the Protection of Juveniles deprived of their Liberty; (3) Domestic Violence; (4) Instrumental Use of Children in Criminal Activities; and (5) Measures against Drug Addiction.

Ms. Rocky said 95 to 100 per cent of street children are exposed to drugs. For those living in extreme poverty, drugs present an element of comfort, and trafficking becomes a viable source of income for the estimated 100 million street children in the world. A majority of the street children in developing countries use inhalants and industrialized glue. According to an Amnesty International report, the Guatemalan police use drug law enforcement as an excuse to exterminate street children, resorting to murder or methods such as setting a child's head on fire with his own sniffing glue or gasoline. Prostitution, sexual exploitation and AIDS are other hazards to street youths. It is imperative that street children become the subject and not the object of assistance initiatives.

Ms. Vandor described drug rehabilitation by New York State, noting that 400 programmes in 2,000 sites treat more than 50,000 people. A 1987 survey determined that, in New York, there are approximately 470,000 children whose parents use drugs. That same year, an estimated 23,000 substance abusers gave birth. 97 per cent of these mothers were not in treatment programmes. Ms. Vandor said people use drugs "to feel good or not to feel bad". A central nervous system depressant like heroin is one of the most potent anxiety and pain reducers, while cocaine is a powerful confidence-booster. Children of drug-abusers might respond by wanting to be the caretaker of the parent, by becoming over-achievers, or turning rebellious. Rehabilitation programmes have begun to include families of drug abusers, setting up day-care and child therapy services.

Mr. Johnson said that crime declines considerably in the late teens and early twenties, while drug use tends to continue. A child who grows up in a family that loves, respects and nurtures him or her probably has the best defense against serious substance abuse and criminality. Detaining juveniles may take some of the delinquents off the streets, but does little to reduce crime and has negligible impact on the behaviour pattern of those young people. Investment in drug treatment reduces criminality and substance abuse to a much larger extent. Over the past 15 years, drug trafficking has become a new category of crime, overwhelming others. Simultaneously, the flow of resources has shifted from social services to military. The only way to fight a war against drugs is to direct funds back to family support networks.

14 September 1990 (Morning)

MAKING THE WORLD SAFE FOR CHILDREN: THE ROLE OF THE MEDIA

This session was moderated by **Ellen McGrath**, Division of Media Psychology, the American Psychological Association. The resource panelists were **Rolland Smith**, Anchor, Channel 9 News Program; **Alain Modoux**, Director, Office of Public Information, United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO); **Emily Ashton**, Editor, Children's Express; **Anatoly G. Alexine**, author of children's books, USSR; and **V. Tarzie Vittachi**, Journalist and Program Director, Pate Institute for Human Survival.

Mr. Smith, said the medium is no longer just the message, as Marshall McLuhan suggested; it is all-pervasive and television is the tribal fire of humankind. Thirty years ago communication and space technologies gave us a view of our planet never before seen by humankind -- a world without borders, fences or walls. But, as television began to detect signs of trouble, and as the quantity of visual information grew, so did the public's awareness of global challenges. Now is the time to use this powerful medium to redirect our course. Although emphasizing the role of TV, Mr. Smith said the ethic he outlined applies to all media. In his view, we must tell again and again the stories of environmental pollution, deforestation, ozone depletion, substance abuse and financial debt and waste.

Illustrating how media can help make the world safe for children, Mr. Smith presented a six-minute video, "Mother Earth," produced by a British NGO, the Arc Trust. Used in a positive and creative way, global broadcasting is the cheapest, easiest, fastest way to reduce fear and encourage co-operation, he said. He quoted a 1988 editorial in the Christian Science Monitor: "There is a deep questioning of the role of the media, a suspicion that the media distorts, fictionalizes, treats as gossip or as soap opera serious public matters. We need a new discourse. Not rhetorical, not entertaining, not intellectual. But a discourse that is conversational, heart to heart, that speaks frankly of what most needs to be done and why."

Global broadcasting can and must find the elusive and ever changing balance between entertainment and education, between information and transformation, Mr. Smith said. When the viewer becomes actively involved, rather than passively addicted, informational programming will change from prattle to transformational action. One way to accomplish this goal may be through a Global Access Information Network (GAIN), an international co-operative broadcasting service of NGOs proposed by the Foundation for Global Broadcasting in Washington, D.C. GAIN will utilize developing technology to preserve the richness of culturally divergent messages and at the same time provide all citizens of the world equal access to them. Concluding, Mr. Smith quoted Buddha: "There are only two mistakes one can make along the road to truth: (1) Not going all the way. (2) Not starting."

Mr. Modoux opposed assigning a specific role to the media, saying that freedom of the press implies that journalists decide what is in the best interest of their media and audience. In his statement, he would rather outline how to work with the media with a view to making the world safe for children. Stressing that the "child issue" is a good cause for the media, he noted that, normally, children should enjoy the largest possible protection and assistance by the family and society for their full and harmonious development and education. There are terrible discrepancies between these noble objectives and the daily realities. Our major concern with regard to the World Summit for Children should be to pressure authorities to include "media planning" as part of the initiative.

Addressing the role of the NGOs in publicizing the "child issue", Mr. Modoux said that any communications strategy needs to clearly define the audience and how to achieve the desired objectives. He strongly recommended that the "fantastic network" of NGOs be the major actor of our communications strategy. Only through NGO initiatives may the media be used to reach the local people. Since a good cause does not necessarily attract media attention, appropriate conditions for bringing forth the "child issue" must be created.

Speaking on the working relationship between NGOs and the media, Mr. Modoux referred to the following simple but basic rules:

(a) NGOs may become a valuable information resource by responding promptly, accurately and courteously to media inquiries;

(b) If the reporter's deadline is not met, the NGO's side of the story will not be told, and the reporter will not come back a second time;

(c) Do not self-promote; stress facts and the human aspects of the story;

(d) Never pick favourite reporters;

(f) Avoid reacting emotionally to reporters who seem skeptical or hostile. Focus on the needs of children;

(g) Provide access to high officials and "where the action is";

(h) Be aggressive in presenting the good cause; do not stay away from controversy and bold stories;

(i) Feed the media hard, usable facts regularly;

(j) In approaching journalists, expand beyond the United Nations-based reporters and focus on the local media;

(k) Stay close to major events and trends. There are plenty of "child angles" in most situations.

Ms. Ashton described the impact of the media on children. Noting that children are at the mercy of an adult world, she said it is the duty of adults to demonstrate beliefs and views which are not only subjective but which reflect a global vision. Children learn today what they will teach tomorrow. Ms. Ashton joined Children's Express a news service which is run "by kids, for everybody," when she was 14. In her view, the media use their power almost unconsciously, presenting facts in a disinterested manner. Children's Express was founded in an attempt to broaden the scope of the media to include the voices of children.

Ms. Ashton cited a poem written by an 11-year old Children's Express journalist:

> **I am an eternity of myself**
> **But I change myself even**
> **If I don't know who I am. Can**
> **Somebody**
> **tell me? No? I have to find out**
> **Who I am. I am a mystery**

She said many children are insecure because things around them are presented as clear-cut and comprehensive, in contradiction to their own lives. Children must be given information to form their own values in order to discover who they are. She thinks of all children as mysteries who during childhood find some clues to who they are, during adolescence find more, and, who finally, during adulthood begin to interpret these clues and to find answers. The media provide many clues in their portrayal of violence, hunger and hatred, but one should be careful not to impose ready-made solutions on children.

Children are often referred to in terms of the future, but the future is being formed now, Ms. Ashton said; the way children are being treated now is the way they will be treated in the future. Illustrating how children take action if they receive pertinent information, she spoke of a group of Nordic children who, after having learned about deforestation, raised money to buy a few hundred acres of rain forest in Costa Rica which became a park called "The Forest of the Children." In Ms. Ashton's opinion, the role of the media is not just to cover children's issues, but also to remind adults that children can think, work and act. Concluding, she emphasized that children often do not recognize "barriers" like class, sex or race which adults often see as insurmountable. We would all gain by taking children's views into account.

Mr. Alexine drew attention to what he called the urgent necessity to defend the spiritual health of children and the need to prevent pollution of the most delicate substance -- the human soul -- and especially children's souls. Of all the vitamins which are vital for children, the vitamin of genuine culture is of utmost importance. Mr. Alexine said he would not propose a utopian and undemocratic ban of so-called mass or pop culture, but he felt obliged to say that a very aggressive war is being waged by "mass culture" against literature and art. It is very discouraging that children read less and less. The interest of youth in classical music and art is frighteningly diminishing.

Mr. Alexine quoted the Russian author Maxim Gorky: "Tell me your attitude to children and I will tell you who you are." He praised writers such as Charles Dickens, Alexandre Dumas, Astrid Lindgren, Mark Twain and Jules Verne for devoting their work to children and youth, noting that Leo Tolstoi and Feodor Dostoievsky considered it a sacred duty to offer their talent to young people.

Mr. Alexine said we are all responsible for the spiritual world of those to whom the future belongs. The seeds of such qualities as kindness, loyalty, courage, compassion and mercy are planted in the hearts and minds of our youngsters by literature, primarily the classics. He said children and youth should be allowed to listen to rock music, if they like it, but that we have no right to force out Bach, Beethoven, Berlioz and Tchaikovsky from the hearts and souls of our predecessors. Let detective books be published in large circulation as children are very fond of them, but these books cannot be a substitute for Balzac, Cervantes, Goethe, Longfellow, Souza, Chekhov,and others.

By reading and listening to the works of the great masters of culture, our youth will aspire to peace, mutual understanding and friendship, in Mr. Alexine's view. Not only must our children enjoy physical health; they should also develop into morally and spiritually sound adults. This goal cannot be achieved without us, the parents, Mr. Alexine concluded.

Mr. Vittachi said he had learned about this session's theme from "both sides" through his long experience as a journalist and as Deputy Executive Director, UNICEF, for 10 years. This meeting is not about the front page or prime time; it is about page 16 or the afternoon programme, Mr. Vittachi said. We are in the business of reporting processes, while the front page and prime time report events. To illustrate, he spoke of the frustrated Broadway producer who had asked George Kaufman, then a drama critic of the New York Times, how he could get his leading lady on page one. "Shoot her," George Kaufman replied.

Mr. Vittachi summed up 100 years of newspaper history by speaking of journalists following their own value system, trying to catch the attention of the masses. The paradigm was, and still remains: "dog bites man is not news; man bites dog is news." For 100 years, journalists have chased stories on "man bites dog," according to Mr. Vittachi. He claimed that 98 per cent of broadcast and print in the world did not cover the processes which are today's greatest human stories: population growth, impoverishment of a billion people, desertification and pollution. Very few of these issues reach the media because they do not know how to make process reporting as interesting as event reporting. All of us, some of the time, and some of us, all the time, should report on processes, in Mr. Vittachi's view.

With reference to the drought and famine in the Sahel region and in Ethiopia, Mr. Vittachi said UNICEF tried desperately to catch the attention of the media in the years before the disaster became large enough to be an event. Not until children with gaunt faces, bulging eyes and distended bellies started to move around searching for food did they become "photogenic" enough for the world media. Calling this phenomenon the "pornography of poverty," he noted that it is easy to report pornography, but that such

coverage neglects the true picture of malnutrition. The process of malnutrition is invisible, even to the mother. Journalists should use their talents to make the invisible visible and to report events before they take place, in order to mitigate, if not stop, disasters.

Mr. Vittachi said he does not regard NGOs primarily as pleading information providers for the media, but rather as media themselves, as communicating people who are directly involved in processes. A climate of possibilities must be created in order to spread the process messages. But, people do not live in climates; they live in weather, the local weather. Only the NGOs, priests and teachers can get close to the people on the local level. As non-news media, it is their obligation to get the process messages across to the public and the policy-makers.

* * * * * * *

14 September 1990 (Afternoon)

Chairperson: **Rosalind Harris**
NGO Representative, International Social Service
NGO Committee on UNICEF

Mahbub Ul Haq, Special Advisor to the Administrator, United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), who guided the creation of the Human Development Index for UNDP highlighting the need to measure development in human terms, focused on four themes: (1) the world as a safer place for children today than 30 years ago; (2) the need to complete an unfinished agenda for children in the 1990s; (3) a concrete, practical strategy for a global compact to implement the goals for children; and (4) the importance of translating a global strategy into country-level practices.

Providing some revealing statistics on child survival, protection, and development, Mr. Haq showed the marked improvement in the lives of the "average" child in the developing world over the last three decades. For example, in these 30 years, the infant and child (under five) mortality rates have been halved, a feat that took the industrialized world 100 years to accomplish; the immunization rate increased from 20 per cent to 70 per cent, saving two million lives per year; and the rate of children receiving basic education rose from 45 per cent in 1960 to 75 per cent today.

But complacency is not warranted; in the developing world, there are still 40 million newborns with no immunization, and the infant mortality rate is 121 per thousand as compared to 18 per thousand in the industrialized world. Moreover, 150 million children in the developing countries are estimated to be malnourished, and 100 million are not receiving basic education. The key is to target a few central issues for international commitment in order to avoid diffusion of effort. Three goals were at the top of Mr. Haq's list: universal immunization by the year 2000, the elimination of

severe malnutrition (and substantial reduction in moderate malnutrition), and the provision of basic education for all children.

At what cost can these goals be achieved? Who shall carry the burden? According to Mr. Haq, an additional 2.5 billion dollars per year would prevent the deaths of infants and young children through the universal availability of nutrition, rehydration, and immunization programmes. Another 5 billion would provide the developing world's children with basic education and literacy. Mr. Haq stated that raising 7.5 billion dollars per year in the next decade is feasible. Two-thirds of the money can come from the developing countries and the rest from the international community.

Mr. Haq named three sources of funds in third world countries: restructuring of budgets, such as reduction in military spending; greater denationalization of agriculture and industry; and a rise in current spending in the social sector from five per cent to 10 per cent of GNP. Through official development assistance (ODA), the international community can fill the funding gap. Sadly, international contributions have dropped from 17 per cent in 1980 to only 10 per cent today.

All these efforts can be best achieved through commitments by individual countries, according to Mr. Haq. What applies in Pakistan may be wrong for Mali. What works in Sri Lanka may not be relevant or exportable to Costa Rica. He expressed the hope that, in spite of crises in the Middle East, the World Summit for Children can be used to design a global compact and strengthen international resolve to make the world safe for children. He reminded the audience that in the last cruel days of World War II, Winston Churchill had the courage to say that putting milk into the mouths of babies was the first priority of the nation.

According to Mr. Haq, the challenge in industrialized countries is to use top intellectuals, co-operating NGOs, and government officials to issue the battle cry. Finally, Mr. Haq believed that it is time for the developing countries to be brought into the peace process and disarmament negotiations. For the last 45 years this issue has been largely ignored. A commitment to make lending (from the World Bank and the IMF) contingent upon a country's agreement to neither sell nor buy military materials would be an excellent start.

Closing address

H.E. Javier Pérez de Cuéllar, Secretary-General, United Nations

(The Secretary-General's statement was delivered on his behalf by Thérèse Paquet-Sévigny, Under-Secretary-General for Public Information)

"I am especially pleased to address this important gathering of representatives of non-governmental organizations from 60 countries, the largest NGO meeting ever held at the United Nations.

"Let me first say how much I personally appreciate your energetic dedication to the ideals of the United Nations. You have continuously promoted greater public interest and involvement in the aims and programmes of the world Organization. Your diversity and variety, as well as your extensive world-wide networks, give you a unique perspective and strengthen your capacity to support us. As envisaged by the founders 45 years ago, you serve as true partners with the United Nations in our common task of realizing the goals of the Charter.

"This conference has brought out, in compelling terms, the tragic reality of the suffering of helpless and innocent children all over the globe. Let me simply underline that it is unconscionable that, in a world of plenty, and despite impressive scientific and technological advances, millions of children should die every year because of indifference and neglect. Let this be an occasion for us to make a solemn pledge to change that forever.

"As perceptive observers of the international scene, you are well aware that we have entered a new era of unparalleled challenge and opportunity. On all continents there is now growing evidence of a degree of global co-operation that has until recently eluded us. We must act quickly and decisively to put to work this new spirit of global co-operation for the benefit of 'succeeding generations' -- our children.

"Fortunately, an increased awareness of the needs and rights of children is emerging. Member States have demonstrated their commitment to the cause of children by quickly ratifying the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child, enabling it to enter into force within one year of its adoption. This provides a fresh momentum for the endeavours of the international community on behalf of the world's children.

"Much of the strength of the Convention derives from the contribution of non-governmental organizations who participated actively in drafting and promoting it. This was natural and appropriate since NGOs have always been at the forefront in protecting the rights of children and providing services for them. As a result of the work of

NGOs, the world now has a practical and useful instrument. By ensuring its full implementation, we can make a significant change in the lives of children everywhere. The World Summit for Children, to be held at United Nations Headquarters later this month, will be attended by a large number of Heads of State. You have already made a major contribution to the preparatory process. The United Nations will do all it can to ensure that the Summit is successful in inspiring Member States to give greater priority to the needs and rights of children, including the implementation of the Convention. We all know that to achieve this will require strenuous continuing efforts by the entire international community, including, of course, non-governmental organizations.

"Finally, let us draw satisfaction from the sure knowledge that we have the support of the unheard voices and the unseen presence of the children whose suffering we seek to end. Our awareness of the plight of children is largely the result of your commitment and dedication. I know that we have your continuing co-operation and support as we go forward, in partnership, to give the children of the world the lives they deserve, and that we owe them."

Vadim Perfiliev, Director, Dissemination Division, Department of Public Information, United Nations, closed the conference by calling for a renewal of our commitment to enhance public support for the United Nations. The goals and aspirations of the United Nations may be achieved only if they are shared by the people of the world. According to Mr. Perfiliev, a first step toward reaching these goals is to communicate to other NGOs and the public the insights gained from this conference. By organizing meetings in our own communities, using United Nations information in our newsletters, and petitioning leaders of business and government, we help create policies protecting children's rights.

Mr. Perfiliev said NGO representatives are welcome to participate in a wide variety of activities held at United Nations Headquarters, which include weekly briefings organized by the Department of Public Information on current world issues, and special observances to highlight issues of importance to NGOs, such as disarmament, human rights, or the struggle against apartheid. NGOs associated with the United Nations have established nearly a dozen NGO Committees which meet regularly at United Nations Headquarters to discuss issues covering substance abuse, education, youth, or development.

Accredited NGO representatives may obtain a broad range of United Nations publications, documents, press releases and posters from the the NGO Resource Centre at Headquarters. He commended conference participants who had traveled from other regions and countries for their commitment, saying that the United Nations deeply values its partnership with individuals and organizations world-wide. Mr. Perfiliev noted that the Department of Public Information is exploring the possibility of holding regional conferences to allow more NGOs to participate directly in United Nations information activities. As part of its efforts to raise public consciousness of global issues, the United Nations has established nearly 70 Information Centres throughout the world.

1990 ANNUAL CONFERENCE COMMITTEE

Conference Co-ordinator	-	**Farouk Mawlawi**, Chief NGO and Institutional Relations Section United Nations Department of Public Information
Chairman DPI/NGO Executive Committee	-	**Sylvan M. Barnet, Jr.** International Advertising Association
Rapporteur	-	**Margery Cohen** League of Women Voters
Chair, Planning Committee	-	**Rosalind Harris** International Social Service
Chair, NGO Interchange	-	**Iris DuBose** The Links, Inc.
Chair, Reception	-	**Estelle Linzer** Albert Schweitzer Fellowship

MEMBERS

Yael Danieli
World Federation for Mental Health

Norma Levitt
World Union for Progressive Judaism

Janet Nelson
Chief, NGO Unit, UNICEF

Eileen O'Connor
NGO Unit, UNICEF

The Staff and Interns of the NGO and Institutional Relations Section:

Staff:

Gry Tina Andersen
Frank Merritt
Arlette Leoncavallo
Barbara Loy
Ma. Luisa M. Reyes
Eric Wong

Interns:

Petr Kveton
Greg Moore
Katherin Topar
Carina Zollinger

The NGO/DPI Executive Committee wishes to thank the following organizations for co-hosting and helping to defray the expenses of the 13 September 1990 reception in the United Nations Delegates Dining Room:

- Association Montessori International
- Catholic International Education Office
- Christian Children's Fund, Inc.
- Daytop International
- Foster Parents Plan International, Inc.
- Global Education Associates
- International Reading Association
- Junior Chamber International
- The Links, Inc.
- The Population Council, Inc.
- Rotary International